United Nations E/2016/SR.46

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 46th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 26 July 2016, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

(e) African countries emerging from conflict

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-13021 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (A/71/66-E/2016/11)

1. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) (A/71/66-E/2016/11), said that progress towards meeting the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action had been mixed. Over the past five years, least developed countries had made continued progress towards graduation from the least developed country category, with 10 least developed countries currently at some stage in the graduation process. However, most had not met the targets on human and social development.

2. In order to reach Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, increased efforts and concrete actions in the priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action were imperative from the perspective of the least developed countries and the international community. Structural transformation in least developed countries was a precondition for sustainable and equitable growth and poverty eradication. In that respect, increased agricultural productivity was crucial. Greater focus on rural areas was needed and a comprehensive support package should be provided to boost output. There was a need for enhanced access to finance and technology, and improved market access through enhanced infrastructure for all, including women, youth and the marginalized population.

3. Employment creation, as the means to achieve meaningful and sustainable improvement in living standards in least developed countries, should be the objective of macroeconomic policies. Bottlenecks in such areas as technical and vocational education and training would need to be addressed. Least developed countries needed to raise output growth and increase the labour intensity of growth. Inclusive and sustainable industrialization and development of the services sector therefore played equally important roles.

4. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states would remain greatly constrained in their efforts to eradicate poverty, structurally transform their economies, increase productive capacity, unleash sustained growth and realize the Sustainable Development Goals, without rapidly building national capacities in science, technology and innovation. Efforts had thus been stepped up towards the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries by 2017. The Secretary-General had recently appointed several leading science, technology and innovation experts to serve on the interim governing council of the Technology Bank.

5. Least developed countries had made some progress in domestic resource mobilization, but required enhanced support in that regard. The tax base in least developed countries could only be significantly enhanced through productive capacity-building and inclusive growth. Revenue needed to be raised, the effects of new taxes needed to be properly understood and financial support was needed to support Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goal to reduce inequality within and among countries.

6. Least developed countries would need external finance for their development for the foreseeable future. However, official development assistance (ODA) to least developed countries had declined since 2011, and the average share of ODA to least developed countries as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) of Development Assistance Committee donors had been only 0.09 per cent in 2015. Development partners must fulfil their commitment to provide the equivalent of 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their GNI in ODA to least developed countries and to allocate a higher share of their total ODA to those countries. More diverse foreign direct investment (FDI) flows were needed to provide a conducive environment for the private sector.

7. While least developed countries had contributed very little to climate change, most were contributing to mitigation. In order to adapt to the effects of climate

change, least developed countries required financial support, access to technology and capacity-building. Relevant funds, including the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, must be adequately financed. Expanded trade, investment and development financing among members of the global South could play a very important role for sustainable growth. South-South and triangular cooperation must be deepened and scaled up.

8. The monitoring processes of the different agendas should be as closely aligned as possible, in order to avoid duplication and excessive burden on national systems. His Office was working with relevant United Nations agencies to produce a report on synthesizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the Istanbul Programme of Action, so as to reduce the reporting burden of the least developed countries.

9. During the comprehensive global midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the need for accelerated implementation of the agreed actions had been stressed. The firm commitment of the international community to give special attention to least developed countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda had been reiterated. The commitment to the full, effective and timely implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda and to their mainstreaming into national development policies and programmes in the least developed countries had also been reaffirmed. Many participants had stressed that national leadership and ownership with a multi-stakeholder approach played a key role in driving and implementing the Agenda. However, given their financial, human and institutional constraints, least developed countries would seek continued strengthening of effective and comprehensive partnerships in all areas.

10. During the private sector forum on investment opportunities in least developed countries, the challenges and opportunities in attracting sustainable direct investment had been highlighted. Parliamentarians from least developed countries and other participating countries had reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and their determination to take account of the Programme in national laws and regional parliamentary forums.

11. The outcome document of the review suggested consideration of improvements to the effectiveness of food reserve mechanisms for least developed countries. Collaboration across many initiatives in that area should be strengthened and further commitments should be made to support strong social, economic and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national, regional and local development planning. The commitment to allocate a higher share of aid for trade to least developed countries had been reiterated, in order to strengthen the export potential of least developed countries and help them overcome supply-side constraints. In the meantime, policies should aim to channel a higher share of total ODA to least developed countries. The impact of ODA would have a multiplier effect if a higher share of ODA went towards developing productive capacity building, leveraging more resources for infrastructure development and energy, and mobilizing domestic resources.

12. The comprehensive global midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action had stressed the need for enhanced measures at both the national and international levels to mitigate and manage risk and address the vulnerability of the least developed countries to various kinds of shocks and crises. A study would thus be undertaken on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for least developed countries. An investment promotion regime for least developed countries would also be considered by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

13. In the report of the Secretary-General and the outcome document of the review, the need to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels had been stressed, in order to accelerate progress towards structural transformation, resilience-building and sustainable development in the least developed countries. While significant progress had been made, the least developed countries needed greater support in order to meet the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action and enable at least half of them to graduate from the least developed country category by 2020.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

14. **Mr. Grant** (Chair, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti), presenting the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2016/79), said that the overall

political, economic and social situation in Haiti was of concern. Political uncertainty had resulted in a decline in investment, the inability of the international financial institutions to initiate loans and failure to meet the terms of existing loans. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti called for free and fair elections to be held without delay and for the political actors of Haiti to assume their responsibilities to enable the country to return to constitutional governance as soon as possible. The Haitian economy and society had also been affected by the El Niño phenomenon, the cholera epidemic, slower economic growth and reduced external support.

15. In a year in which donor aid and the use of Government coordination methods had declined, the Group was pleased that, in recent months, the Government and partners had worked together to revitalize the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti. In 2016, the Group had focused on the health care sector in light of the cholera epidemic. Progress had been made in combating malaria, maternal death and HIV/AIDS; however, there were new threats, such as the Chikungunya and Zika viruses. The report noted that too few Haitians had benefited from improved health conditions and the provision of clean water, and underlined the role that the United Nations and other development partners should play to eradicate waterborne diseases.

16. The Group had welcomed the fruitful collaboration between the United Nations and the Organization of American States in the area of civil status, which was becoming key to the elimination of marginalization. The Group encouraged dialogue between the Governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In the report, the planning underway to entrust the United Nations country team with part of the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), particularly on matters related to rule of law and governance, had been welcomed. Increased collaboration with Haitian civil society had been recommended, in order to boost the development potential of Haiti, take advantage of local knowledge and empower Haitians.

17. The establishment of links between humanitarian interventions and longer-term development plans was a key theme of 2016, with a view to reducing the number of crises to a minimum. The Group called for greater international mobilization of support for the Humanitarian Response Plan in light of increasing needs. The issues of displaced persons, migrants from the Dominican Republic, the cholera epidemic and natural disasters must be addressed. In order to build capacity, agriculture, energy, manufacturing and tourism required special attention; political uncertainties had unfortunately diverted the focus away from those employment-generating sectors.

18. **Mr. Wahba** (United Nations Resident Coordinator in Haiti) said that the political situation in Haiti was gradually moving towards a resolution: elections would be held on 9 October 2016, the Provisional Electoral Council had made progress in registering candidates and steps were being taken to ensure credible and transparent elections. However, since May 2016 the number of cholera cases had increased because of the rains. Finding adequate financing to respond to that challenge was difficult, forcing some emergency response teams to slow down at a time when they were particularly needed. At the development level, there were two areas of concern: the reduction in spending in health, leading to an ongoing strike in the general hospitals that had lasted almost four months; and the reduction in spending in education, leaving teachers unpaid.

19. The country team was of the view that many if not all of the humanitarian challenges faced by Haiti were due to failures in development: the lack of resilience in the agricultural sector to adapt to climate change; displacement caused by unforeseen weather events; lack of funding; and poor urban planning. Much greater progress could be made with respect to cholera and other waterborne diseases through investment in water, sanitation and hygiene. The country team believed that there was a direct relationship between funding for humanitarian crises and funding for longer-term development. It wished to continue collaborating with the peacekeeping missions and gradually assume certain of their functions having to do with the rule of law, the security sector, community violence reduction and civil affairs.

20. **Mr. Olguín Cigarroa** (Chile) said that Chile was concerned by the negative repercussions of the political situation in Haiti in humanitarian, socioeconomic and development terms. It urged all Haitian actors to redirect the political and electoral process along the relevant institutional channels, so as to send positive signals to the public and the international community. Cooperation programmes must continue and donors must fulfil their development

and humanitarian commitments, in the context of mutual accountability.

21. His Government had implemented and supported various cooperation projects in Haiti, including both triangular and South-South cooperation, in the areas of education, reconstruction, rural development, development of human capital and capacity building for policing. Chile was pleased to note that the reconstruction of the Republic of Chile School — a project that had been the result of a broad alliance including the public sector, private enterprise, academia and civil society — had been completed in March 2016.

22. Chile hoped that the political situation in Haiti would soon return to normal, enabling the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to do its work and contribute to the Council through its reports.

23. **Mr. Saint-Hilaire** (Observer for Haiti) said that his delegation would welcome the inclusion of the note containing written observations submitted by the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti as an annex to its 2016 report (E/2016/76).

24. On 19 July 2016, the Head of State and the Government of Haiti had signed the order inviting the Haitian people to participate in the elections according to the timetable established by the Provisional Electoral Council, officially launching the elections. The first round of the Presidential and senate elections and would take place on 9 October 2016. On the economic and social level, the scaling back of ODA and the drastic reduction of humanitarian assistance were regrettable and discriminated against the vulnerable segments of the population. Assistance to the population, which suffered food insecurity, epidemics and poverty, must not be delayed. The Haitian authorities would welcome a visit by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to Haiti, which would enable the Group to accurately assess the expectations and considerable needs of the Haitian people.

(e) African countries emerging from conflict (E/2016/71)

25. **Ms. Sandhu-Rojon** (Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan by the United Nations system (E/2016/71) on behalf of the United Nations country team in South Sudan, said that the report showed that a certain level of optimism had existed before the recent fighting in Juba. However, the continued fragile situation in the country required all actors to balance their assistance between the immediate needs of the many displaced and otherwise vulnerable people and the need to address more fundamental development issues. The country team had acknowledged that it must focus on the medium- to long-term challenges and on future generations through a balanced approach to humanitarian and development assistance.

26. The events of early July 2016 were a stark reminder of the deep cleavages created by decades of conflict and that, despite the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (Peace Agreement), South Sudan was yet again at war with itself. The country team welcomed the relative calm of the situation in Juba and echoed the Secretary-General in saying that the leaders in South Sudan must take decisive action to regain control of the security situation, prevent the spread of violence to other parts of the country and guarantee the safety and security of civilians and United Nations and other personnel, and must genuinely commit to the full implementation of the Peace Agreement.

27. The current conflict had confounded an already dire humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis. The recent fighting had led to a further increase of displaced persons inside South Sudan (currently totalling over 1.6 million) and of refugees in neighbouring countries (at least 26,000 in addition to a caseload of over 600,000 refugees). Looting of the humanitarian warehouses was hindering the response to the over 4.8 million food insecure people. The $1.4 billion Humanitarian Response Plan was only 40 per cent funded. Over 166,000 people were sheltered inside United Nations protection of civilians sites. Human rights violations, which had increased to unprecedented levels in 2015, had been further exacerbated. The current fighting and the sometimes hostile attitude towards the United Nations severely restricted access to many areas and had caused United Nations agencies to reduce staff levels or pause programmes in some areas. Agencies had nevertheless been able to quickly mount the humanitarian response, and the most pressing programmes were prioritized, based on a

programme criticality exercise. The interventions foreseen in the Interim Cooperation Framework for 2016-2017 and the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General remained relevant, but the pace of implementation of the various interventions would vary.

28. Political will to overcome the current conflict and recommit to the implementation of the Peace Agreement was the prerequisite for a return to a path of peace and development. The determination and commitment of the United Nations family to simultaneously address the enormous humanitarian needs that the country faced and promote the longer-term development agenda would continue, despite the setbacks from the resurgence of the conflict in July 2016.

29. **Mr. Grignon** (Chair, United Nations Peacebuilding Commission) said that, during the meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission held on 24 June 2016, the discussion had focused on the nexus between peace and development in view of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcome resolutions of the review of the peacebuilding architecture. It had been agreed that comprehensive approaches were needed for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in fragile States and States emerging from conflict.

30. The following lessons could be learned from the past ten years of Peacebuilding Commission engagement with the countries on its agenda: national ownership of the peacebuilding agenda and priorities must be respected by all national stakeholders; countries in transition from conflict required financial, technical and material support from the international community to build a viable, functional State; national and local institutional capacities needed strengthening to run transitions and implement policies, including on sustainable development and sustaining peace; a constitutional review process and an enabling legal framework were crucial; the rule of law, the administration of criminal justice and security institutions needed to be strengthened; the promotion of national reconciliation, healing and forgiveness was crucial to the creation of strong resilient communities and sustaining peace; and cross-border and transnational collaboration was important and had featured prominently in the Peacebuilding Commission strategy of engagement.

31. In Burundi, the Peacebuilding Commission had supported the strengthening of the Burundi Revenue Authority. The Peacebuilding Commission continued to engage countries on its agenda in efforts to combat corruption and in the implementation of inclusive development strategies. In Burundi and Liberia, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund had supported national institutions dealing with land issues, as part of national reconciliation efforts. In Liberia, the Peacebuilding Fund had invested in the establishment and functioning of land coordination centres to support reconciliation efforts. In Burundi, Peacebuilding Commission support to and engagement with the National Commission on Land and other Assets had been a priority of the peacebuilding strategy.

32. A multidimensional approach that went beyond military and security responses and political peace agreements to address the root causes of conflict in affected countries should be taken. In countries undergoing transition, that entailed a comprehensive framework to ensure a completed transition. He cited the example of the special multidimensional character of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, particularly its peacebuilding aspects and how it shepherded a successful transition in Namibia in 1990. The Council and the Peacebuilding Commission could review good practices in addressing the root causes of conflict, in the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, and how the United Nations development system could integrate sustainable peace into its planning frameworks and activities.

33. **Mr. Park** Jang Ho (Republic of Korea) said that the latest threat of hostilities would have negative repercussions on the path of South Sudan to full recovery and eventual prosperity, and impede the efforts of the Council to shift its approach from an emergency humanitarian aid posture to a long-term development posture. His delegation urged the parties in South Sudan to refrain from further hostilities, to fully implement the Peace Agreement of August 2015 and to trust that the international community and the United Nations system in particular stood ready to render all the financial, technical and material support required to complete the transition of South Sudan out of conflict.

34. **Mr. Aliyu** (Nigeria) said that Nigeria hoped that the international community could identify the main reasons for the frequent occurrence of conflict in South Africa. He also asked what measures the international community would take to resolve the crisis in South Sudan. Given that South Sudan had experience in fighting terrorism and that its neighbours were unstable, Nigeria would like to see stability return to South Sudan in the interest of international peace and security.

35. **Ms. Matthews** (Deputy Director, New York Liaison Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that the fresh displacement of persons in the past week would put a further strain on UNHCR resources for the South Sudan operation. UNHCR did not currently have the required resources to provide adequate care to persons in need. Given the current trend, UNHCR anticipated that the number of refugees from South Sudan in neighbouring States could pass the 1 million mark in 2016. The resources requested, including in the revised Regional Refugee Response Plan, were urgently needed. The international community should provide the human and financial resources needed to deliver lifesaving protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons.

36. UNHCR reminded all parties to the fighting in South Sudan of their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and international criminal law, and urged them to uphold the current ceasefire, take steps to ensure the distinction between military personnel and civilians, and allow civilians to move freely and access places of safety. The security of the civilian population from sexual violence must be guaranteed. The safety and security of humanitarian works, assets and supplies, and full access of humanitarian aid workers to the civilian population in need must be ensured.

37. **Ms. Jorgensen** (Observer for the World Food Programme (WFP)), speaking on behalf of the Rome-based agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP, said that the past two and a half years of fighting, a collapsing economy, high food prices and erratic rainfall had already resulted in a deterioration of the food security situation in South Sudan. The devaluation of the South Sudanese pound had directly affected food prices. The country faced an inflation rate of over 300 per cent, which meant that people who had previously been able to purchase food were no longer able to do so. The most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report indicated that 4.8 million people could currently be facing emergency levels of food insecurity, an increase of 1 million compared to the number of food insecure people in April 2015. Malnutrition had reached catastrophic proportions in parts of Unity State, with global acute malnutrition rates in some places above 30 per cent.

38. Renewed conflict rendered the delivery of humanitarian response and longer-term development planning even more challenging. WFP and FAO warehouses had been looted during the recent fighting in Juba. FAO estimated that up to 50 per cent of its fishing and vegetable production inputs had been stolen, with greater losses incurred for agricultural tools and crop seeds for the second planting season.

39. The people of South Sudan needed inclusive and durable peace. The Rome-based agencies and development partners could bridge the humanitarian work with longer-term development assistance, through resilience-building activities and nutrition mainstreaming, which were critical for the livelihood security of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

40. **Ms. Khan** (Observer for the World Health Organization (WHO)) said that many health facilities remained closed in South Sudan and more had been destroyed in Wau following the recent fighting. The economic situation continued to affect and destabilize prices on the market, making the delivery of much-needed health services and humanitarian response a challenge.

41. WHO was supporting the Ministry of Health in strengthening health systems in Wau and other parts of the country, including by providing supplies, rebuilding primary health care and training health workers. WHO was also working closely with the Ministry of Health and partners to boost disease surveillance and treatment efforts and had reinforced its cholera outbreak response capability to prevent the spread of the disease following the recent outbreak. A national cholera task force had been activated and was providing oversight and coordination for the response. With support from partners, WHO had established a cholera treatment centre capable of treating 100 patients at Juba Teaching Hospital. It had also

strengthened comprehensive disease investigation, including through follow-up on persons who might have come into contact with the disease. As a proactive preventative measure, it was conducting an oral cholera vaccination campaign. WHO and partners were supporting social mobilization and community engagement activities, and delivering supplies, including tents and cholera kits.

42. The South Sudan: Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 had requested $110 million in funding, of which only $31.3 million had been received. WHO required $17.5 million of that amount for 2016, of which only $4.3 million had been received. More funding would be required to respond to additional needs arising from the recent crisis.

43. Although WHO was currently focusing on addressing the cholera outbreak and the damage to health services following the fighting, its main goal was to rebuild health services in a resilient and sustainable way.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (*continued*) (E/2016/L.21)

Draft resolution E/2016/L.21: Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

44. **The President** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

45. **Mr. Tatiyapermpoon** (Observer for Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that assistance to least developed countries must be accelerated, including through the relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. With strong support from the international community and coordinated actions, the least developed countries would be able to overcome their structural weaknesses. It was hoped that at least half of the least developed countries would meet the criteria to graduate from the least developed country category by 2020. The Group of 77 and China invited all Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide support to the least developed countries in their implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda in order to make their development gains sustainable, inclusive and meaningful.

46. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council), introducing a technical correction, said that the General Assembly resolution referred to in the third preambular paragraph was resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016.

47. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.21 was adopted.*

48. **Ms. Bajaña** (Observer for Nicaragua) said that, as Nicaragua had chosen not to become a State party to the Paris Agreement, it had strong reservations about the related reference in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution. Nevertheless, in keeping with the spirit of consensus and out of solidarity with least developed countries, it did not object to the adoption of the draft resolution, given the vital importance of implementing the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and renewing global commitments to address the needs of least developed countries. The language of paragraph 9 should nevertheless be treated as exceptional and must not set a precedent for future resolutions.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

United Nations E/2016/SR.47

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
26 July 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 47th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 26 July 2016, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

(d) Narcotic drugs

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*continued*)

(f) Human rights (*continued*)

(g) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

(h) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-13022 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice (E/2015/30/Add.1-E/CN.15/2015/19/Add.1, E/2016/30-E/CN.15/2016/13 and E/2016/77)

(d) Narcotic drugs (E/2015/28/Add.1, E/2016/28 and E/INCB/2015/1)

1. **Mr. Däuble** (Germany), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, gave a briefing on the work of the twenty-fifth regular session of the Commission, the report of which was contained in E/2016/30-E/CN.15/2016/13. The topic of the session's annual thematic discussion had been "Criminal justice responses to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the financing of terrorism, and technical assistance in support of the implementation of relevant international conventions and protocols". A number of standing items had also been discussed. The Commission had adopted three resolutions by consensus; recommended two draft resolutions, on restorative justice and mainstreaming holistic approaches to youth crime prevention, and one draft decision, for adoption by the Council; and adopted one draft resolution for approval by the Council and subsequent adoption by the General Assembly, relating to the follow-up to the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the fourteenth Congress.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the Commission had tried to align its work with that of the Council. In March 2016 the Commission had submitted its contribution to the Council's discussion on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: moving from commitments to results. It had also submitted a paper to the high-level political forum on the theme "ensuring that no one is left behind", as well as a presentation containing crime and justice statistics and information on how the Commission would contribute to monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. The work of the Commission contributed to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16, on peaceful societies and access to justice for all, which touched the Commission's core mandate; Goal 11, which was closely related to the Commission's work on preventing physical assault; Goal 15, which related to the Commission's work to prevent wildlife crime; and Goal 5, which was closely connected to its work on ensuring women's and girls' access to justice and eliminating gender-based violence. The Commission helped to ensure that no one was left behind through the fulfilment of its mandate: fully inclusive societies could only be predicated on the rule of law, an effective criminal justice system, the protection of victims of crime, and the prevention of transnational organized crime and corruption. Moreover, the Commission's work addressed the needs of specific groups which were most likely to be left behind, such as youth, migrants and prison populations. The draft Doha Declaration on integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation, adopted at the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, highlighted the need to uphold human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including vulnerable members of society, and to prevent and counter crime motivated by discrimination or intolerance of any kind.

3. **Mr. Karia** (President, Board of Trustees, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, presented the report of the Board, contained in E/CN.15/2016/8. The Institute's overall strategy consisted of research-based programming, which produced measurable outcomes. However, research-based programming often took years to achieve demonstrated behaviour changes in a target population. For that reason, the Institute had developed a system for documenting such behavioural change throughout projects. For example, it continued to work with the European Commission and the European External Action Service to address risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials; including illegal trafficking in such materials, nuclear terrorism, accidental release of chemical or biological material and natural disasters. With the support of the Institute, countries were developing national action plans, in coordination with existing initiatives. The process had led to systematic

behaviour change. At the national level, the plans fostered inter-agency cooperation and ensured that priorities were identified, while at the regional level they helped to identify common concerns. At the international level, they would provide a tool to reinforce donor coordination and ensure the implementation of international legal instruments in the areas of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation. The Institute had also developed regional centres of excellence, which enabled it to assist Member States to develop action plans to address a range of types of crime. It was currently using research-based programming to inform work on more than 30 areas of crime, and achieving measurable outcomes, with funding from Member States, foundations and private partnerships. It continued to play an active role in education by, inter alia, holding workshops on different aspects of the criminal justice system.

4. Following a six-year period over which it had rapidly expanded, in 2015 the Institute had focussed on stabilizing its funding, support services and programme implementation. New administrative processes were currently being implemented to adapt to the Umoja system, while the Institute's budget and personnel numbers remained the same. The Institute was entirely funded from extra-budgetary resources, earmarked for specific projects, and general-purpose voluntary contributions. Its rapid growth since 2010 had stretched its administrative support personnel beyond capacity, and additional voluntary contributions were needed to support the restructuring that was required for the Institute to fulfil its mandate.

5. Lastly, an increasing number of young people were falling through the "prevention cracks"; specifically, large numbers of young people were becoming involved with violent extremism. The high numbers of young people displaced as a result of conflict meant that there would be a large number of people excluded from society in the next two generations. Increased funding was needed across the entire criminal justice system to support those people. Youth urban crime prevention and intervention programmes, and programmes to counter the draw of violent extremism, among other types of schemes, were necessary.

6. **Mr. Galuska** (Czech Republic), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, gave a briefing on the recent work of the Commission and presented the report of its fifty-ninth session, contained in E/2016/28-E/CN.7/2016/16. Accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, he said that the session, attended by over 1,000 participants, had been divided into a special segment on preparations for the April 2016 United Nations General Assembly special session on the world drug problem, and a regular segment focussed on the scheduling of substances, strategic management issues, the world drug trafficking situation, recommendations made by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and matters relating to the Council. Member States had adopted nine resolutions by consensus, one containing the draft outcome document of the General Assembly special session for adoption by the General Assembly.

7. At the special session, the General Assembly had adopted the outcome document contained in resolution A/RES/S-30/1, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", which provided guidance on the work to be carried out in that area. Specifically, it provided operational recommendations on demand and supply reduction; ensuring that controlled substances were available exclusively for scientific and medical purposes; and cross-cutting issues, such as drugs and human rights. Member States had committed to implement the recommendations and keep the Commission updated regarding progress.

8. The other resolutions adopted by the Commission concerned the outcomes of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, the promotion of scientific networks to better address the world drug problem, the development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into drug use policies and programmes, the promotion of prevention strategies and policies, the promotion of proportionate sentencing for drug-related offences, and measures to target new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants. During its regular segment, the Commission had also discussed the implementation of the international drug control treaties, including changes in the scope of control of substances. It had acted on seven substances, which had not been included in schedules previously, on the basis of World Health Organization recommendations.

9. In terms of contributing to the work of the Council in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, in March 2016 the Commission had submitted a

contribution to the Council's discussion on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: moving from commitments to results, and in May 2016 it had submitted to the high-level political forum a paper on ensuring that no one was left behind. The Commission's work contributed to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goal targets under Goal) 3 on health and Goal 5 on gender equality by, inter alia, working to prevent drug use disorders specifically among women and girls. The Commission helped to ensure that no one was left behind by adopting a broad development perspective on the world drug problem. It addressed risk factors affecting individuals and society and issues such as drug-related violence and social disintegration, to contribute to peaceful and inclusive societies. It responded to the needs of vulnerable members of society, including children, ethnic minorities and socially marginalized individuals. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had included a chapter on mechanisms of interaction between the world drug problem and all aspects of sustainable development in its World Drug Report 2016, and had woven the theme of leaving no one behind into the report.

10. **Ms. Pavadia** (First Vice-President, International Narcotics Control Board), introducing the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2015, contained in document E/INCB/2015/1, said that over the past 12 months the Board had been engaged in such activities as the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, and had worked closely with country missions and Governments with a view to full implementation of the three drug-control-related conventions. Among the various observations and recommendations made in the report, Governments were urged to review drug-related policies, in particular with regard to the criminalization of drug abuse. States should favour alternatives to punishment, such as rehabilitation, with any sanctions arising from due process and proportionate to the seriousness of the crime and degree of responsibility of the defendant. None of the conventions called for a war on drugs. Rather, drug-related policies should address illicit drug production, focus on the health and the welfare of populations and take into account social factors, including access to education and exposure to violence and abuse.

11. The Board had developed a list of new psychoactive substances for voluntary surveillance by Governments, and was also working with them to facilitate the sharing of information. It had also issued guidance for the control of precursor chemicals. Unfortunately, certain countries had recently decided to permit the non-medical use of substances such as cannabis, clearly contravening the conventions and the international consensus on which international drug control cooperation was based. Governments were therefore urged to implement measures to control the cultivation of cannabis in line with the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

12. Deeply concerned by the situation in Afghanistan, the Board called on the international community to continue to support that country in its drug control and development efforts. In that regard, the Board stood ready to cooperate with all relevant partners. There was also a particularly worrying upward trend in opioid consumption in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. In contrast, low- and middle-income countries continued to have inadequate access to proper pain relief due to lack of training and awareness, addiction concerns, limited finance, sourcing difficulties and the fear of diversion. Governments were therefore urged to take firm action, including by training health professionals and raising awareness. The Board was currently implementing a project to train competent national authorities and counted on the support of Member States. It also looked forward to continued cooperation in the implementation of the three drug conventions with Governments and civil society. States were further encouraged to convey the recommendations in the report to their Governments and to promote their implementation.

13. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that a more coherent United Nations system was crucial to addressing the world drug problem. Although entities such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Office on Drugs and Crime had clear mandates, greater coordination with other agencies, bodies and international organizations was necessary to design and implement more effective responses.

14. Mexico was concerned by the lack of equitable geographical diversity among the staff at the Office on Drugs and Crime and, similarly, the lack of gender parity at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In contrast, it welcomed the recommendations included in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board,

in particular with respect to access to controlled substances. It was worth noting that 90 per cent of pain-relief medications were consumed in only 10 countries of the world, leaving a great many dying of pain.

15. **Ms. Urruela Arenales** (Guatemala) said that her delegation welcomed the outcome document adopted at special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. Although it was insufficiently ambitious, it took into account the various views expressed during debates, which should in turn to be reflected in the United Nations system. Entities such as the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, and the Economic and Social Council should draft guidelines on addressing the world drug problem.

16. **Mr. Minami** (Japan) said that his Government was committed to implementing the Doha Declaration. Its decision to host the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020 was a reflection of that commitment. Japan also welcomed the adoption by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the resolution it had proposed with regard to the theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the 2017 Congress.

17. His delegation further welcomed the successful conclusion of the recent special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, and pledged to implement the resulting recommendations in partnership with the international community, in particular with respect to the worrying spread of synthetic drugs.

18. Japan reaffirmed the principal roles of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the United Nations policymaking body responsible for drug-control issues, and of the Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading United Nations entity for countering the world drug problem. Having been a member of both the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, his Government would continue to play an active role in those areas.

19. **The President** invited the Council to take action, under sub-item (c), on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-fifth session (E/2016/30).

Section A

Draft resolution: Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

20. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft resolution I: Restorative justice in criminal matters

Draft resolution II: Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention

21. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

Section C

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-fifth session and provisional agenda for its twenty-sixth session

22. *The draft decision was adopted.*

23. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Board of Trustees on major activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/2016/77).

24. *It was so decided.*

25. **The President** invited the Council to take action, under sub-item (d), on the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-eighth session (E/2015/28/Add.1).

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifth-eighth session

26. *The draft decision was adopted.*

27. **The President** invited the Council to take action, also under sub-item (d), on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session (E/2016/28).

Section A

Draft resolution: Outcome document transmitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the General Assembly and recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

28. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft resolution: Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

29. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section C

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its sixtieth session

Draft decision II: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

30. *Draft decisions I and II were adopted.*

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*continued*) (E/2016/61 and E/2016/78; E/2016/L.29)

31. **Ms. Matthews** (Deputy Director, New York Liaison Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) presented an oral report on behalf of UNHCR on coordination of UNHCR activities implemented in partnership with Governments, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), sister United Nations agencies, other multilateral bodies and refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons.

32. Over the past year, the number of people displaced by conflict and persecution had reached 65.3 million, of which 12.4 million had been newly displaced. Although host countries had generally maintained open borders, displaced persons had had to bear significant political and socioeconomic burdens, travelling by dangerous and irregular means in search of international protection. The often ad hoc and exclusionary responses to the arrival of large numbers of refugees and migrants in Europe by boat undermined the coordination necessary to mitigate the crisis, threatening the institution of asylum. Unresolved conflict, political instability and insecurity had continued to make voluntary repatriation impossible for most of the world's displaced. Resettlement continued to play a crucial role in the protection response of UNHCR. Within four years, UNHCR annual resettlement submissions had increased by 79 per cent, and, in 2015, UNHCR had processed more than 130,000 submissions.

33. UNHCR had continued to lead and coordinate international action in favour of refugees and other persons of concern in line with the refugee coordination model. It had extended the terms of its regional refugee coordinators for the situations in the Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. New refugee coordinators had been appointed for the situations in Yemen and Europe. Seven regional refugee response plans currently covered 30 countries, involving over 270 partners.

34. UNHCR had continued to implement the Joint UNHCR-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Note on Mixed Situations, which provided a framework for leadership and coordination in both refugee operations and complex humanitarian emergencies, notably in Northern Cameroon, Chad, Iraq and Sudan. Where applicable, UNHCR had worked with OCHA and other stakeholders to ensure that refugee response appeared as a distinct chapter in inter-agency country-level humanitarian response plans. In line with the refugee coordination model, UNHCR remained committed to ensuring that the coordination, planning and delivery of refugee responses were effective, collaborative and based on principles of partnership.

35. UNHCR had continued to implement the Inter-Agency Standing Committee transformative agenda, working within the framework of the established coordination arrangements at the global and field levels. The Global Protection Cluster had begun developing a comprehensive policy framework on protection with a view to strengthening the response of members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. In February 2016, the Global Protection Cluster had updated its Strategic Framework 2016-2019 in order to promote the centrality of protection in humanitarian action, develop policy standards and provide support to staff in the field. UNHCR and the International Federation of Red

Cross and Red Crescent Societies co-led the Shelter Cluster, which had supported 25 country-level clusters in 2015, reaching 16.2 million persons in need of shelter or non-food items. The Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, which was co-led by UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), supported 37 field-level clusters worldwide and managed and developed tools and technical guidance, information management systems and training material for use in the field.

36. UNHCR worked with partners to design comprehensive protection and solution strategies that addressed the legal, economic, civil-political and social-cultural dimensions of solutions. To help drive change and find innovative solutions, UNHCR had strengthened its partnerships with development actors, such as the World Bank, the International Labour Organization and the International Trade Centre, and private sector entities. In February 2016, UNHCR had assumed the role of chair of the Solutions Alliance. In October 2015, a commitment had been made to strengthen collaboration with the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund on cash-based interventions. Partnership discussions with IOM had led to joint approaches to mixed migration crises and humanitarian trafficking. In 2015, UNHCR had entrusted $1.2 billion to partners, 80 per cent of which were NGOs and most of which were national or local organizations. In 2015, UNHCR had launched the Partner Portal, an innovative web-based platform providing interactive access to information on UNHCR partners, agreements, disbursements and policies. To further strengthen partnerships with NGOs, a series of joint missions had been undertaken with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and InterAction. The UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs continued to be a significant forum for dialogue, exchange of best practices, networking and joint advocacy, attracting a record 560 participants in 2016.

37. The World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul in May 2016, had provided an important platform for strengthening cooperation with a wide range of partners on measures to improve humanitarian action and ensure responses to forced displacement. During the thematic and regional consultations in preparation for the Summit, UNHCR had advocated the centrality of protection, emphasizing that protection concerns must systematically inform humanitarian planning and preparedness, decision-making and responses, financing and solutions, and leadership and coordination. It had also called for greater attention to solutions to protracted situations and efforts to bridge the humanitarian-development divide and highlighted the importance of innovation to improving delivery and gaining efficiencies. At the Summit, it had made a number of commitments, including facilitating faster and more efficient emergency response, building a robust capacity to engage effectively with development actors, scaling up the use of cash assistance, where appropriate, and ensuring greater efficiency, transparency and accountability.

Draft decision: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2016/L.29)

38. **Mr. Bai** (Observer for Fiji), introducing the draft decision, said that Paraguay and Fiji, through their respective requests for membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, had shown their commitment to UNHCR and their respective implementation efforts in their various jurisdictions. They were confident of meeting the criteria for membership, since they were strongly committed to the goals of UNHCR, had established high levels of cooperation with UNHCR, were parties to conventions on human rights and refugees and valued the contributions of refugees to peace and international dialogue. Given the commitments of Paraguay and Fiji to the work of the Committee and to the identification of solutions for refugees, enlarging the Committee to include those countries would benefit both the Committee and the United Nations.

39. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

40. *Draft decision E/2016/L.29 was adopted.*

(f) Human rights (*continued*) (A/71/41; E/2016/22 and E/2016/58)

41. **Mr. Šimonović** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights) said that, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had launched a year-

long campaign to promote broader awareness of the Covenants, particularly among children and youth. In addition, the Convention on the Rights of the Child had obtained three additional ratifications since 2014, and was only one ratification away from universal ratification. He encouraged those States that had not yet acceded to or ratified the Covenants and the Convention and their Optional Protocols to do so with a view to strengthening the protection of economic, social and cultural rights worldwide.

42. Introducing the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on early warning and economic, social and cultural rights (E/2016/58), he said that the report highlighted the need for closer analysis of the links between the violation of those rights and violence, social unrest and conflict in early warning efforts. Illustrating those links through concrete country examples, the report identified violations of human rights relating to access to land as one of the main causes of violence and conflict worldwide and highlighted a number of risk factors for violence, together with corresponding indicators. It underscored the contribution of severe inequality, frequently driven by discrimination, to modern-day conflicts and stressed the need for revealing indicators, such as the proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, disaggregated on the basis of age, sex and disability, to evaluate the action of States to redress it. Given the importance of an active and functioning civil society for ensuring the accountability of Governments, laws and policies and assessing fulfilment of human rights obligations, a shrinking space for civil society represented a significant risk. A useful indicator in that regard would be the number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, trade unionists and human rights advocates within a 12-month period. Unequal access to natural resources and land, and the failure to distribute fairly the benefits driving from investment or development projects, also created a breeding ground for social unrest. Such conditions were often exacerbated by lack of adequate compensation, decent work opportunities or adequate alternatives for resettlement for those affected or dispossessed of land. Moreover, increased securitization of business operations often contributed to confrontations with local communities. To address such inequality, efforts should be undertaken to increase the number and quality of independent environmental and social impact assessments of business activities, especially those requiring land and water, and the effective participation of persons affected by land reform programmes and policies. The lack or degradation of social services, including as part of austerity measures or as a result of the privatization of essential services, could contribute to unrest and violence, which could be prevented by the establishment of a social protection floor. Relevant structural indicators could focus on the existence of legislation guaranteeing the rights to social security, health and education. Additional indicators could include the proportion of the budget allocated to health, education and social security; information on social security coverage, particularly the number of persons entitled to benefits compared with those in need; and unemployment rates, especially of young men, as well as education level. On the basis of its analysis, the report concluded that United Nations preventive action would benefit from a system-wide early warning mechanism that would build on the Human Rights Up Front initiative, drawing from existing sources of information, including human rights mechanisms.

43. Introducing the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions (E/2016/22), he said that the increase in the number of reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol considered in 2015 had been made possible by the additional meeting time granted to the Committee as part of the treaty body strengthening process and had resulted in a significant reduction in the backlog of reports. In 2015, the Committee had adopted a statement recognizing social protection floors as an essential element of the right to security and of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to combating poverty and discrimination. It had also organized a discussion on the draft general comment on article 7 of the Covenant on the right to just and favourable conditions of work that had revealed that, despite advances, the gender pay gap remained and respect for minimum wage rules was far from universal. Labour rights must therefore be prioritized on the global agenda, particularly given the use of the global economic and financial downturn as justification for the weakening of hard-won labour standards in many parts of the world. The Committee had also begun considering individual cases under the Covenant with a view to clarifying its scope of

application and continued to provide guidance with regard to adequate remedies for victims. Lastly, he recalled the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 with regard to the procedure for the election of experts to the Committee.

44. Introducing the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/71/41), he said that, in the context of treaty body strengthening, the Committee had halved its backlog of State party reports pending review by conducting several sessions in parallel chambers. It had also adopted a general comment on harmful practices, developed in collaboration with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, an unprecedented joint initiative in the history of the Committee on the Rights of the Child that had the potential to contribute to further harmonization of the work of treaty bodies. In addition, the Committee had adopted its first decisions on an individual communication and an inquiry under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; however, the slow pace of ratification of the Optional Protocol remained a concern. Lastly, he emphasized the need to strengthen international human rights instruments at all levels to achieve a better world.

45. **Ms. Khusanova** (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation noted the broad interpretation by members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular General Comment No. 22 (2016) of the Committee on the right to sexual and reproductive health (article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). It was unacceptable to use terms and concepts that were controversial and not supported by the majority of States. Such comments were the personal opinion of experts of the Committee and could not impose upon States any obligations in addition to those already undertaken upon accession to the Covenant. The Russian Federation therefore did not consider itself obliged to ensure that all educational institutions incorporated comprehensive sexuality education into their required curricula, since it was families that were primarily responsible for providing sexual education to children.

46. The human rights treaty bodies could ensure their effective functioning by closely following their mandate and engaging in constructive dialogue with member States on the basis of mutual respect. The main task of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was to provide assistance to States in meeting their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Recommendations of experts following the review of periodic reports of member States on their implementation of the Convention should not fall within the mandate of the Committee. The Russian Federation noted the lack of equitable geographical representation and the impossibility of evenly distributing relevant expertise among members of the Committee when examining reports in dual chambers.

47. The Russian Federation could not agree with the assertion in the report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on early warning and economic, social and cultural rights (E/2016/58) that the adverse human rights situation was at the root of increased social unrest and modern-day conflicts. In most cases, armed conflicts were the result of outside interference in State affairs. The consequences of conflicts, in particular terrorist threats, on the enjoyment of human rights was becoming an increasingly pertinent issue. The issues of the rights of indigenous peoples and the staging of large sporting events were not directly relevant to that report.

48. The Russian Federation warned the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights against promoting various ideas for reform, such as the inclusion of a human rights component in all areas of United Nations activities and the development of indicators, including in the framework of the Human Rights Up Front Initiative, without consulting Member States. States should have the final say and the Secretariat should not attempt to assume the role of States.

49. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions (E/2016/22).

50. *It was so decided.*

(g) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2016/43)

51. **Mr. Pop Ac** (Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues), introducing the report on the fifteenth session of the Permanent

Forum (E/2016/43), said that the session, which had been attended by many representatives of Member States, as well as approximately 1,000 indigenous leaders representing a broad range of fields, and had featured more than 70 side events, had attested to the increasing relevance and significance of indigenous issues. Participants had reaffirmed the key role of indigenous peoples in preserving the planet's natural resources; the importance of natural resources for human development, well-being, coexistence and comfort; and the need to obtain the prior, free and informed consent of indigenous peoples in decision-making relating to natural resource exploitation, in the interest of upholding democracy and to ensure that such activities benefited them and the States concerned. In addition, a number of high-level representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and indigenous peoples had participated in the review of the implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Many of them had underscored the need to repeal oppressive laws and practices that encroached upon the rights of indigenous peoples and to protect their rights in the areas of health, education, human rights, economic and social development, environment and culture.

52. To improve its capacity to deliver on its mandate and identify ways forward, the Permanent Forum had hosted dialogues with representatives of Member States, indigenous peoples, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies, primarily to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum and of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum also attached great importance to the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, launched by the Secretary-General at the opening of the session, as a key instrument for implementing the Declaration, especially at the national level. In that regard, national action plans and activities relating to indigenous peoples had a strategic role to play in imbuing human mechanisms of wealth accumulation with a new ethic that could also serve to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

53. During the discussions on the theme "indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution", participants had shared examples of conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, including peace processes, and had discussed the impact of conflict on indigenous peoples, particularly women and youth. They had also underscored the urgent need to consolidate intercultural dialogue at the national and regional level with a view to eradicating racism, discrimination and religious intolerance and to enhance the capacities of regional mechanisms and courts to protect human rights. The evidence of human evolution provided by such achievements was at least as strong as that provided by advancements in technology and communications.

54. In recognition of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum urged States to evaluate the situation of indigenous peoples living in their territories with a view to sharing best practices for harmonious coexistence and intercultural exchange. In that regard, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies had been encouraged to support joint efforts by States and indigenous peoples to create national development and action plans. Moreover, in line with the concern expressed by the Secretary-General regarding the disappearance of ancestral languages, interpretation in one indigenous language from each region of the world should be provided at the upcoming International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

55. Efforts must be undertaken to strengthen dialogue with the world's 300 million indigenous persons, who represented 5,000 peoples with languages more than one thousand years old and centuries-old livelihood and food systems that were strategic assets for combating climate change. Accordingly, in the context of reviewing the participation mechanisms for indigenous peoples in the United Nations, consideration should be given to developing a road map for recognizing them as permanent observers, in order to ensure that they had an equal voice in all international forums organized for the benefit of humanity. Lastly, drawing the Council's attention to the three draft decisions contained in the report (E/2016/43), he underscored that the sixteenth session of the Forum would address the theme "Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the

Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration".

56. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions contained in chapter I, section A of the report (E/2016/43).

Draft decision I: International expert group meeting on the theme "Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: the role of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other indigenous-specific mechanisms (article 42)"

Draft decision II: Venue and dates for the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Draft decision III: Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda for its sixteenth session

57. *Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted.*

(h) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

58. **The President**, informing the Council that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 19 (h), recalled the decision contained in paragraph 33 of General Assembly resolution 62/220.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

United Nations E/2016/SR.48

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2016

Original: English

2016 session
25 July 2016-27 July 2016
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 48th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 July 2016, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 14: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

(d) Human settlements

(e) Environment

(f) Population and development

(g) Public administration

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(i) Cartography

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-13042 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Agenda item 14: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/71/69, A/71/87-E/2016/67, E/2016/49 and E/2016/L.25)

1. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Chair, Special Committee on Decolonization), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations contained in document A/71/69 and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Committee contained in document E/2016/49, said that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, administering Powers must promote the peoples and interests of their non-self-governing Territories, while guiding the transition of those Territories to self-determination and independence.

2. Taking into account its importance in decolonization processes, the United Nations must act in the interests of the peoples of non-self-governing Territories in achieving that transition as soon as possible. Any delays would benefit the administering Powers that wanted to preserve the status quo. The United Nations must therefore increase its efforts to support the peoples of non-self-governing Territories in defending their culture and demography, and in developing their economies and independence-oriented political processes. United Nations Member States and specialized agencies must continue to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of non-self-governing Territories in line with their needs, while administering Powers should adopt measures to provide as much assistance as possible to strengthen the economies of those Territories.

3. Reflecting the importance of United Nations specialized agencies and international institutions in providing assistance to non-self-governing Territories, the action plans of the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism had identified the need to create concrete international aid mechanisms. Furthermore, the conclusions and recommendations of the annual regional seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization had emphasized the challenges of the economic and environmental impact of climate change, the need to develop self-governance capabilities and the importance of continuing to strengthen administrative capacities, effective governance and economic sustainability.

4. Relevant specialized agencies and organizations at all levels should be encouraged to submit information on their activities to provide assistance in non-self-governing territories. Similarly, specialized agencies within the United Nations system should promote increased distribution of information among members of the Special Committee on Decolonization, particularly in its regional seminars. Regrettably, none of the agencies invited had attended the Pacific Regional Seminar held in Managua in 2016, which benefited neither the inhabitants of non-self-governing Territories nor the self-determination process.

5. Non-self-governing Territories had specific problems in planning for and achieving sustainable development, and therefore required the continuous cooperation and assistance of specialized organizations, including those in the United Nations system. In that regard, the excessive exploitation of the natural resources of those territories by administering Powers was concerning, as it not only violated the rights and sovereignty the peoples of non-self-governing territories over their resources under United Nations resolutions, inter alia General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, but also negatively affected their prospects for economic and environmental sustainability in the event of self-determination or independence. Due to the misuse of natural resources and shortcomings in the administration of non-self-governing territories, complaints had been made within the framework of the Special Committee on Decolonization in regard to the situations in territories such as French Polynesia and Western Sahara. The United Nations and its specialized agencies must follow up on those issues and other similar problems in, for example, Puerto Rico.

6. Neither development nor the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could be achieved while some territories and peoples were still subject to colonial rule. Recognizing the intersectoral character of the problems faced by non-self-governing

Territories, the Special Committee on Decolonization would continue to work with the Economic and Social Council to provide assistance to those territories, as the United Nations system had a responsibility to help the most vulnerable people to protect their rights.

7. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that, as with previous draft resolutions similar to E/2016/L.25, his delegation would request a recorded vote. The United States would abstain from voting, despite agreeing in principle that United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies could provide useful support to territories that were not United Nations Member States, as long as it was permitted by the laws and policies of a given territory's administering Power. It was the responsibility of the administering Power to determine the nature of a territory's participation with the United Nations and, as the language used in the draft resolution was inconsistent with the internal arrangements of the United States in that regard, the United States could not support it.

8. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria) said that there was a clear contradiction between the actions and words of the United Nations with regard to non-self-governing Territories. Peoples living in those territories must be able to enjoy their rights and natural resources in line with the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions adopted by various bodies within the United Nations system, inter alia General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

9. While specialized agencies continued to provide assistance to peoples under foreign occupation, they needed to take further action; the lack of representation of such agencies at the 2016 Pacific Regional Seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization was deplorable. Consequently, and in recognition of the specific challenges faced by peoples living under foreign occupation, his delegation supported the proposal to establish a follow-up mechanism on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). Similarly, administering Powers must uphold and respect their obligations to the peoples of non-self-governing Territories and ensure that the rights of those peoples were respected, in particular regarding the administration and exploitation of their natural resources.

10. It was incumbent upon the international community, including the United Nations system, to support and uphold the fundamental right to self-determination of the people of non-self-governing Territories and to counter misleading arguments opposing that right. The prevailing situation in the United Nations system was inadmissible as it was inconceivable that people enjoying the right to self-determination should deny that right to others.

Draft resolution E/2016/L.25: Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

11. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Observer for Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution.

12. **The President** said that Algeria and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. **Mr. Volgarev** (Russian Federation) said that his country had consistently advocated for the right to self-determination and independence of people living in non-self-governing Territories. Consideration of that largely political issue distracted the Economic and Social Council from its main objectives. He would therefore abstain from the vote.

14. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2016/L.25.*

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Iraq, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

15. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.25 was adopted by 22 votes to none, with 23 abstentions.*

16. **Mr. Gave** (France) said that, as in previous years, his delegation had abstained from voting on the draft resolution because it believed that the resolution did not fall under the purview of the work of the Economic and Social Council. It was moreover regrettable that prior consultations had not been held on the resolution, which revealed unsatisfactory working methods.

17. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that as in previous years, his delegation had abstained, on the grounds that the resolution should be implemented in accordance with the relevant pronouncements of the United Nations and the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and Special Committee on specific territories.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/71/76-E/2016/55 and E/2016/L.19)

Draft resolution E/2016/L.19: Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighteenth session

18. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.19 was adopted.*

20. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/71/76-E/2016/55).

21. *It was so decided.*

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/71/67-E/2016/51 and E/2016/31)

22. **Mr. Major** (Hungary), Chair, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, introducing the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session (E/2016/31), said that the Commission had considered two priority themes: smart cities and infrastructure, and foresight for digital development. It had also convened a ministerial roundtable on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which had recognized the instrumental role of science and technology innovation and information and communications technologies (ICTs) as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda.

23. The ministerial roundtable had highlighted the central role of ICTs in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development. Participants had reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes beyond 2015. They had likewise welcomed the remarkable evolution and diffusion of ICTs, while expressing concern at the lack of affordable access to ICTs in developing countries: for the poor, the promise of ICTs remained largely unfulfilled. The roundtable had called on all stakeholders to bridge the digital divide and to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that would stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services.

24. ICTs and science, technology and innovation all had an instrumental role to play in the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals. The successful use of technology would be facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enabled education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth. It was necessary to develop new approaches that embedded capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as crucial components of national development plans. Moreover, Governments were called upon to implement policies that supported the development of digital ecosystems that were inclusive and took into account the sociopolitical contexts of different countries.

25. During the science, technology and innovation policy reviews of Iran and Rwanda conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariat, participants exchanged views and their national experiences in using science, technology and innovation to promote growth and development.

26. During its nineteenth session, the Commission had adopted two draft resolutions that it recommended to the Council, entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development" and "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society". Lastly, the Commission had selected "New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" and "The role of science, technology and

innovation in ensuring food security by 2030" as the priority themes for consideration at its twentieth session.

27. **Ms.** Dong **Wu** (Chief, Science and Technology Section, UNCTAD), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/71/67-E/2016/51 and Corr. 12), said that the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/70/125) had reaffirmed the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

28. The report addressed three main topics: key trends in ICT development; the outcomes of the ten-year review of implementation of recommendations from the Summit; and the findings and recommendations contained in that outcome document. Regarding key trends, as of 2015, the proportion of people covered by mobile networks worldwide currently exceeded 95 per cent; further, mobile cellular subscriptions had grown from 2.2 billion to 7.1 billion since 2005. Nonetheless, the digital divide persisted. Developing countries and least developed countries in particular still lagged behind developed countries in terms of Internet access: only 6.7 per cent of developing households had Internet access, whereas 81.3 per cent of developed households had such access. Divisions also persisted along rural/urban and gender lines. There continued to be rapid changes in technology, services and governance of the Internet that led to new services and opportunities, such as cloud computing and the Internet of Things. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers had established a stewardship transition coordinating group of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. The report also drew attention to issues concerning Internet governance such as cybersecurity and net neutrality.

29. The report of the Secretary-General highlighted the outcomes of reviews of the World Summit on the Information Society, with conclusions on key areas such as ICTs for development, bridging the digital divide, enabling environments, financial mechanisms, human rights, governance and confidence and security in ICTs. The outcome document called for close alignment between that process and the 2030 Agenda, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of ICTs to poverty eradication and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It moreover encouraged giving a prominent profile to ICTs in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

30. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development must continue to prepare its annual reports on the implementation of Summit outcomes, taking into account the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation must ensure the full involvement of all stakeholders and draw on their diverse forms of expertise.

31. The report concluded with suggestions for the international community, underscoring the need for the information society to be more inclusive. The international community must pay attention to the least developed countries, lest poor and marginalized communities be left further behind. Inclusiveness was not just about connectivity, but also about the affordability and accessibility of development and content. A deeper understanding of the evolving information society, including its impact on governments, economies and societies must be achieved. In order to develop appropriate policy responses, it was crucial to understand how ICTs were affecting economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and social equality, both positively and negatively. The need for capacity-building in data gathering and analysis, especially in developing countries, was also stressed.

32. Going forward, it was crucial to maintain multi-stakeholder engagement. Since the Summit, ICTs had become much more pervasive in society, with a transformative impact on governments, businesses and citizens. New opportunities but also new challenges and risks had emerged. As ICTs would only become more pervasive in the lead-up to 2030, their impact would likely continue to be transformative. To realize the full development potential of ICTs, those trends must be reflected and addressed in national and international development strategies, with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

33. **Ms. Al Saud** (Observer for Saudi Arabia) said that with regard to draft resolution I on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the

Information Society, her delegation believed that the proposal of the facilitator had been adopted without legal basis as it lacked the required quorum of States within the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Moreover, the Chair of the Commission had been tasked with establishing a Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation including the relevant stakeholders to implement the mandate of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society; however, the working group lacked balanced geographical representation. The expression "full involvement of all relevant stakeholders" contained in paragraph 65 of the Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society meant that all Governments must be able to participate on equal footing in the work of the Working Group, and not merely as observers. The membership of the Working Group must therefore not be limited but include all interested Member States.

34. Her delegation had raised a formal objection, asking to be included in the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation. The Economic and Social Council must send the resolution back to the Commission for further dialogue and ensure the balanced geographical representation of the Working Group.

35. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/71/76-E/2016/55).

36. *It was so decided.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its nineteenth session (E/2016/31)

37. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Draft resolution II: Science, technology and innovation for development

38. **The President** said that the draft resolutions had no programme budget implications.

39. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its nineteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission

40. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Human settlements

Draft resolution E/2016/L.23: Human settlements

41. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

42. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.23 was adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2016/L.18: Human settlements

43. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.18 was withdrawn.*

(e) Environment

44. **Mr. Ahmad** (Deputy Director, New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), introducing the Report of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/71/25), said that the resolution entitled "Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which had been adopted at the second session of the Assembly, set out the framework under which the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP would integrate its long-term contribution to review and follow up the 2030 Agenda. The three key components of the framework were the commitment to convey the main messages of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the mandate to increase the impact of relevant scientific bodies, and the mandate to increase the relevance of the Global Environmental

Outlook and its input to the work of the high-level political forum. The report also noted resolutions of the Environment Assembly concerning a broad range of other environmental issues. Dialogues between the Assembly and ministers of health from countries around the world had stressed the links between a healthy environment, human well-being and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. He drew the Council's attention to specific resolutions concerning air pollution, sound management of chemicals and waste, the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021, and the cycle of the Assembly. The decisions taken by the Assembly at its second session reflected the vision agreed at the historic United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

45. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/71/25).

46. *It was so decided.*

(f) Population and development

47. **Ms. Skale** (Vice-Chair of the Commission on Population and Development), introducing the Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session (E/2016/25), said that at its forty-ninth session, the Commission had focused, for the first time in its history, on Chapter XII of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, entitled Technology, Research and Development, which emphasized the importance of a fact-based understanding of the relationships between population and social, economic and environmental trends, and strong national capacities in data and research. It was also the first time in a decade that Member States and other stakeholders had reviewed the Commission's methods of work. The inspiring remarks of the Secretary-General at the Commission's opening, its impressive attendance, and its engaging discussions, keynote speeches and expert panels had all served the purposes of an informed debate and resulted in a productive and successful session. Calls had been made for Governments to adopt open-data policies, national authorities to leverage new data sources and technology, the Secretary-General to improve accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data, and the United Nations Population Fund to assist countries to strengthen the demographic evidence base. Member States had reaffirmed the Commission's mandates and decided that the Commission might further review its methods of work as more information became available concerning the process of follow-up and review for the 2030 Agenda.

48. The Commission recommended to the Council the adoption of the draft decision to take note of the report on the forty-ninth session of the Commission and approve the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission, and the draft resolution entitled Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development. She also drew the Council's attention to proposals adopted by the Commission: a resolution, Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and two decisions, "Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2017 and 2018", and "Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-ninth session".

49. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico) said that, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it would be important to improve census-taking, work with academia and civil society organizations in order to verify demographic trends and development indicators, and plan public infrastructure. Council work programmes should be integrated and coordinated for follow-up purposes. Open data policies should be adopted in order to promote the dissemination of microdata and make use of macrodata, technology and data processing and dissemination, subject to confidentiality safeguards that would restrict access to researchers and decision-makers. Technology would make it possible to establish georeferencing as a standard practice in demographic data gathering so as to build databases and disaggregate metadata in analyses and models.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session (E/2016/25)

50. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

51. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

52. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its fiftieth session

53. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(g) Public administration

54. **Mr. Castelazo** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), introducing via video link the Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session (E/2016/44), said that the Committee had emphasized the importance of policy integration based on horizontal connections between sectors and vertical linkages between various levels of government. The Committee had contributed to the high-level political forum on sustainable development by calling on local authorities to adopt local agendas that would be conducive to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Public institutions had an important role to play in ensuring that no one was left behind, which was a goal that cut across various ministries and agencies. Public administration had long faced certain challenges, such as realizing the principle of social equity. Non-discrimination, accountability and participatory decision-making were particularly important to ensure equal opportunities in Government. Additional training was needed so that parliaments and judiciaries would have the capacities necessary to fulfil their requirements in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Corrupt practices also must be targeted and punished in order to achieve the Goals. All of those purposes called for transformative leadership and good governance. With the Council's approval, the Committee would prepare concrete policy recommendations to take into account the needs of local authorities and communities in order to equip them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session (E/2016/44)

55. The President drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution E/2016/L.30: Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session

56. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.30 was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

57. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

58. **The President** said that he noted that there were no recommendations for action by the Council contained in the Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2015/45).

59. **Mr. Narang** (India) pointed out that the report contained a recommendation for the future dates of the Committee's meetings. He requested clarification, assuming the Council would take note of the report, if that constituted approval of those dates. The dates were under consideration and the Group of 77 and China had made its views known. His delegation's interpretation was that the dates of the Committee's meetings would still be subject to consideration by the Council.

60. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that, in United Nations practice, taking note of reports constituted neither approval nor disapproval. It merely acknowledged the existence of the report considered by the Council.

61. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Observer for Mexico) said that it would be interesting to hear more specifics on the Committee's work. It appeared to have been agreed that from 2016 the Committee would meet twice a year, but the programme of work of the twelfth session included only one meeting of the Committee. Furthermore, in the past the sessions had lasted five days. Consistent with the maintenance of two sessions,

it had been suggested that each should be four days long. It was therefore unfortunate that there should be a single four-day session. That might have damaging implications, as the Committee prepared important proposals, especially for developing countries, on such subjects as the update of the practical manual, information exchange processes, base erosion and profit shifting. His delegation would closely follow the discussions on determining the dates and work programme of the Committee. There should be at least one additional session.

62. **Ms. Aueareechit** (Observer for Thailand) said that, in light of the ongoing discussions on the dates and venue for the next meetings of the Committee, and the call for the implementation of paragraph 29 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, her delegation supported draft decision E/2016/L.6, proposing that one session of the Committee should be held in New York back to back with the special meeting while another session of the Committee should be held in Geneva. The President should also scale up efforts to reach an inclusive and balanced decision. Action on the draft decision on the date and venue of the twelfth session of Committee would directly affect discussions between Member States. The decision on the venue and dates of the next session of the Committee should therefore be deferred until the full decision package on that issue was concluded. The Group of 77 and China was preparing an alternative approach and hoped to assist in finding a way forward. If the resolution containing both substantive elements on tax cooperation and the dates and venues was concluded by September 2016, there should be sufficient time for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to prepare the twelfth session of the Committee in October 2016. All sides should cooperate and be flexible.

63. **Mr. Morgan** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that in Addis Ababa, it had been agreed that the Committee should meet twice a year. It was urgent to decide the dates of the next meeting of the Committee. He requested further clarification on how the Council intended to address that matter.

64. **The President** said that taking note did not mean predetermining the dates and venue of the meeting.

65. **Mr. Aguirre Vacchieri** (Chile) said that it was not clear whether taking note of the report was neutral since it contained a decision already adopted by the Committee in a previous session, according to which it had decided that a meeting would be held in October in Geneva. He asked whether that decision of the Committee was being validated.

66. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Council practice was to take action and decide on the venue and date of the meeting. There would be negotiations and in September a decision would be made by the delegations on the dates and venues for the two sessions of the Committee.

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(i) Cartography (E/CONF.104/9, E/2016/66 and E/2016/L.28)

67. **Mr. Ocampo** (Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Management at its fifth session, and Vice-President of the Mexican Institute for Statistics and Geography), introducing draft resolution E/2016/L.28, said that the draft resolution reflected a broad consensus on the recommendations on geospatial information management made by the Committee of Experts and subsidiary bodies. The draft resolution was sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Jamaica, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

68. The draft resolution also reflected the advances achieved by the Committee in the five years since it had been established. It was well placed to contribute to the work of the United Nations, especially in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

69. The Committee's efforts to rationalize the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the area of geospatial information management had been welcomed by Member States. Furthermore, the establishment of a strong regional infrastructure made up of five regional technical committees reflected the importance of coordination and capacity-building in geospatial information management especially in developing countries.

70. The draft resolution called on the Council to strengthen the mandate of the Committee of Experts;

bring to an end the formal activities of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences in order to avoid duplication of the work of the Committee of Experts at the global level; include the annual session of the Committee of Experts in the calendar of United Nations conferences and meetings, within the framework of the Economic and Social Council, and encourage Member States to make voluntary contributions and, where necessary, ask the Secretary-General to mobilize additional resources to support the activities of the Committee; change the name of the Council agenda item entitled "Cartography" to "Geospatial Information"; and invite the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to continue to submit reports under the agenda item entitled "Geographical Names".

71. The Committee of Experts should report to the Council within five years on the implementation of the present resolution and on its efforts to work with the United Nations system as a whole to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems. For that purpose, the institutional mechanisms of the Committee should be strengthened.

72. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Germany, Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors.

73. **Mr. Imada** (Japan) said that the word "with" should be added before "any other costs" in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

74. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.28 was adopted as amended.*

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.